

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is requested. Claims 20-57 are in the case.

I. THE INTERVIEW

At the outset, the undersigned wishes to thank the Examiner (Ms. Kam) for kindly agreeing to conducting an interview in this application. The interview was held on May 25, 2004, and the courtesies extended by the Examiner are most appreciated. The substance of the interview will be clear from the comments presented below.

II. THE 35 U.S.C. §112, SECOND PARAGRAPH, REJECTION

Claims 20-30, 45 and 50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for the reasons detailed beginning on page 2 of the Action. The claims have been amended in response to the outstanding rejections. The following comments are offered.

Claim 20 has been rejected as reciting "components (a) and (b)". This rejection was discussed with Examiner Kam, and it was agreed that replacement of "components" by "formulations" would obviate this rejection. The rejected claims have been amended accordingly. Withdrawal of this aspect of the formal rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 30 has been rejected as allegedly indefinite. In response, it was pointed out during the interview that claim 30 is intended to prevent a third party from selling one of the two formulations (a) and (b) along with instructions to use that formulation in combination with the other formulation. Claim 30 has been amended to make specific

reference to the formulations intended. It is believed that the rejection of claim 30 has now been obviated. Withdrawal of that rejection is accordingly respectfully requested.

Claims 45 and 50 stand rejected as allegedly indefinite for the reasons stated on page 3 of the Action. In response, as discussed with the Examiner, claim 31 has been amended to recite the mixture as a list, and claim 45 has been amended to refer to the components (ii) and (i) as now presented in amended claim 31. Claim 50 has been amended in a similar way to claim 45. Withdrawal of this rejection is now respectfully requested.

III. THE ANTICIPATION REJECTION

Claims 20, 22, 23, 29 and 31-35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,602,871 to Lam et al. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

At the outset, it is noted that the '871 U.S. Patent to Lam et al is a continuation of Application Serial No. 09/469,831, filed on December 22, 1999, which is subsequent to the two Swedish priority patent applications for the present application filed on April 21, 1999 and December 3, 1999. It was noted during the interview that the '871 Lam patent also makes reference to a Provisional Application Serial No. 60/113,627, filed on December 23, 1998. The Examiner indicated that she would check the disclosure of that provisional application to ensure that the subject matter relied upon for anticipation purposes is supported by that provisional application.

Notwithstanding the above, Lam contains no specific teaching to use low molecular weight thrombin inhibitors in combination with prodrugs of low molecular

GUSTAFSSON, David
Appl. No. 09/582,863
May 26, 2004

weight thrombin inhibitors. While Lam discloses specific thrombin inhibitors in addition to (separately) prodrugs of those thrombin inhibitors, there is no disclosure to use those two components **in combination**, as is required by the present claims.

Applicant is not aware of any suggestion anywhere in the prior art, including that cited by the Examiner, to combine such components in combination therapy. At column 48, lines 58-63 of Lam, it is suggested that the compounds (i.e., the thrombin inhibitors or prodrugs thereof) may be administered alone or in combination with one or more additional therapeutic agents, such as anti-coagulant agents and, in particular, other thrombin inhibitors. However, this, at best, is a very general teaching of a combination of a prodrug of the thrombin inhibitors disclosed in Lam along with another thrombin inhibitor (not necessarily a low molecular weight thrombin inhibitor, as defined in the present application as filed at *inter alia* page 9, line 5 to page 10, line 12).

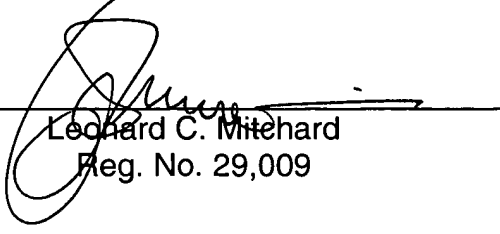
In light of the above, it is clear that Lam does not anticipate the invention as claimed. Withdrawal of the outstanding anticipation rejection is accordingly respectfully requested.

Allowance of the application is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____


Leonard C. Mitchard
Reg. No. 29,009

LCM:lfn
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100